Dear Dick, 9/6/74

The timing of your response of the 4th is perfect. I am doing odds and ends of things because I expect interruption momentarily. While I ache to complete the draft of The Unimpeachment of Richard Nixon it requires concentration (and no changes in content) and today I can't concentrate.

This means also that I can answer your short questions at greater length, thus also making notes to which I may want to return in the future.

All your questions are interrelated. The short answers first, with one change. I think Jaworski will indict (not your word, prosecute) Nixon, that there will be no trial and that there will be no trial because Ford will pardon in advance.

Understanding all of this as I think I do requires first consideration of two factors: why of all the possibilities Nixon selected Ford to be his successor and what kind of man Ford really is. Not what he is made to appear to be. His record. The short answer here is that he simply is not and has not been honest.

Nixon's first need was for a man who would not encourage action against him. Regardless of all the flackery, Ford was and is essentially a nothing from a safe constituency which required of him no more than the preference of the machine. Nobody in his right mind in Congress would regard Ford as the man who would make a really good President and thus a reason for throwing Nixon out.

One of the immediate problems and one of the future potential values of this new and temporarily delayed book is its exposure of Ford's financial and ethical crookedness as it is relevant to the book only and his swearing falsely about it when he was the witness in his confirmation hearings. (Delay all mechanical. I hope!) When he became President all I did was add a footnote to the date. Currently there will be resistance to anything truthful about him that is unpleasant, thus the anticipated problem. Were he a Teddy Kennedy it would be the other way around.

Regardless of all other considerations he will require the Nixon hardcore so he'll do anything necessary to have and hold it.

All indication are that he and his were preparing for this for months. They have mounted the most skilled public-relations program I can remember about anything or anyone. It will last until the unsolved problems make it impossible. He is not capable of solving them and they are not easily solved wefe he competent. They exist not because of Watergate but because to a degree they were inevitable and because Nixon was unfit, not because staying out of jail took all his time and attention and effort. I do not think this really brilliant p.r. effort is the performance or even the concept of Ford or his staff.

The rouge and powder will run in the hot lights. The question is when. Were I to be asked by anyone of wealth I'd recommend converting as much as possible of that wealth into what is most likely to retain its relative value through a very tough time that lies ahead. Like undeveloped land well situated for the future, gold or diamonds. Not even foreign currencies because the whole world will be involed. (It isn't possible to buy a sheikdom or I'd recommend that!) The loss of interest will be more than offset by relative immunity to both inflation and disaster. Both lie ahead. In fact, I'm hoping that someone in the Washington-Baltimore area comes to this conclusion and buys my farm, which lies at a cloverleaf on the superhighway north from Washington and in time will be of great value simply because of its location. Whoever does will make money on the inflation alone. At 61 and broke I can't ride this out

or I'd not even be thinking of selling. (For the reasons I've given and because the location assures increasing natural value, close to DC and at a cloverleaf.)

At the bottom of the first page there was the kind of interruption I did not expect, one on the Ray case that led to three others. The first was a call from a California reporter for guidance. It told me about the newest excess of the Tennessee lawyer on the Ray case. I had to discuss this with both others and then write the Tennessee lawyer still again, taking a new approach to shut him up lest he blow a pair of very solid probabilities, that we win an evidentiary hearing 10/22 and then the trial at the hearing. Actually, I have even less doubt about the trial except for "sinister forces." In a normal case Ray would walk without the case going to a jury. The state and federal government will pull what dirtiness they can but I am at least as concerned about the mistakes of which the two senior defense lawyers are capable. The junior lawyer and I have a good working relationship and we have actually done all the work. It is quite dramatic in many ways. The part that does not relate to me, about this junior lawyer, is that he started doing all the legal work before he took his D.C. bar! Imagine the pair of us turning everyone over, both governments and old Percy Foreman!

Now some time next week I'll have to find time to address one of these workings of the Department of Information. With the senior counsel it will be to satisfy him that it really is disinformation. For me and junior counsel it will be in an effort to determine who is behind it. We'd be better off if we just ignored it and went about our regular business but it has reached the point where they'll blow all the successes the younger man and I have earned if I don't waste this time.

One of the consequences of the work I've done for the past decade is a confidence in my own analysis and judgement that, outside financial matters, makes what I do much easier. Thus, for example, there is no change other than editorial required in The Unimpeachment that all subsequent events did not influence because beginning with the concept it was sound. The exciting thing is the point my writing had reached when Nixon disclosed his special tape. I had just proved what it says from what was missed in the earlier tapes and had been missed by everyone. Only the conclusion will be other than planned.

The odd things about the Post boys' book being a best seller is that the CIA made it possible. I knew this for a long time and early in the summer wrote that part. They were responsible for most of the leaks to the Post, through one who before this was clear was already one of my central characters. For other and very real reasons. I know both reporters and they are new to spooking or they'd not have let me know as soon and as clearly as they did by refusing solid and new information. (There is quite a Ford story in the book, too.) With a major publisher to take over the editing this could be a very, very successful work. But it won t happen because The Establishment never recognizes until too late where its genuine interests lies.

The Establishment leads me back to your unasked question about Jaworski and before this very early morning I return to writing I'll explain what is inherent in my thinking, quoting myself from the past. Jaworski is an old CIA-front man, not just a dessrvedly prestigeous lawyer. Conflicts always exist with him, he is never deterred by them and is never hurt despite a long career of them, and he faces them to serve Establishmentarian interests as he at any time perceives them to be. He was head of the Texas equivalent of the Warren Commission and thus my knowing enough about him when he became Special Prosecutor. I opened my files to the Post, the sent a reporter who selected some 40 pages he wanted, he did a stroy and it was killed up high. It told the story of Jaworski as a)CIA and b) a whitewasher. After the stroy was killed I explained to the lower-level editor who had sent the reporter here that it was a mistake to consider Jaworski to be no more than a whotewasher, that he had to be assessed in terms of his objectives, and that in The Watergate, while he might want to do more whitewashing than he dared, he would confront realities and would do what he thinks the Establishment requires.

These assorted realities are the kinds of things that turned Peter Shepherd off more than the defects in my draft. He was plain scared even if he doesn't admitk it. He probably correctly estimated that The Establishment's book publishers would be scared. Yet their long-term interest requires that kind of exposure. (I am sort of proud that even that early work is not dated and that most of it remains new today, part of the untold story. In years to come long chaters will make successful books for young people. It is a major event and time will make it both scholarly and successful.)

Nixon is and has been a sociopath and a psycho. For either or both of two reasons his present course is making it easier for Jaworski to be easier on him. Jaworski has two special forces with which to contend, aside from the political situation. One is his staff. It isn not young and radical. It is young, bright and not yet corrupted as survival makes lawyers. If Cox, who also had a conflict and also should not have taken the job, had let a single radical young lawyer on the staff Jaworski would have more problems. The grand jury had to be talked out of indicting Nixon with less evidence than is now public. So, Jaworski who has been restraining it, probably can't indefinitely. These are not all the factors that are separate from his own intent and preferences. So Nixon's complete silence is the one help Nixon can now give Nixon and Jaworski. This silence can be from shock and deep psychological problems or from being sat upon in his own interest as outlined above. (It also is enabling other crookedness on which I have already made notes. The real reason Ford asked for any extra quarter of a million subsidy for Nixon is to ghost his book for him, the book that will be a nothing but can restore Nixon's finances to where they were. NoteI am not saying keeping him from being broke. Whoever contracts Nixon's book at anything like $2,000,000 is going to lose a pot.)

So if there is no major change in the present situation, there will be the formalities and the people will again be deceived into believing the system works and the Eastblishment will slide into a special hell that it might avoid if it were not its own creature. Bandaging a wound will be called healing it instead of hiding it. Nixon will be indicted for obstructing justice and what can't be avoided if more but for far less than is true and can be established not only as fact but as admissable evidence. The he-has-suffered-enough line will work (and sponsor much more youthful street crime) and Ford will cut the whole thing off before any evidence can be offered. And all will be fine in the best of possible worlds.

If it is delayed too long they may not be able to get away with it because the time will come when all the highly successful public relations operations will have lost their bloom and pleasing fragrance. Neither a Ford nor a more competent man can cure all the ills that need curing without stringent efforts and the most basic changes in national direction. The economy need not go to hell but it will because what is required to prevent it will mean a major shift in both direction and control and those who now have the control, economic and military, simply haven't the vision and are those of whom the major sacrifices are required. This may in the end mean a very, very nasty and dangerous situation. It seems to me not unlikely that your sons will not know the world as you and I have.

You answered my question partially and avoided giving advice. I have no recent address for S & S. Or should I address a subsidiary? The phone company information service no longer provides addresses and I have no NYV phone book. And would you address Shinkin or Snyder? Right now I think I'd best wait until I can send a copy. And a TV net may be interested in a documentary, so I also have to wait a little longer to hear from them. With initial interest on the lower (not lowest) levels I've just been staying away from them. Sorry to ask you about addresses. A friend was to have sent me last year's LHP but he hasn't.

Nothing new on the movie deal on Frame-Up. You may be interested in the situation and I may need a lawyer who is the right kind of specialist at some point so an encapsulation of what I understand the current situation to be:

First of all, if you haven't noticed it, assassinations are now "in." Only all crappy and worthless. The paradox is that a plagiarism of a black book by French intelligence (SDECE) started it all. ~~Rmmr~~ Doctrinally bad but commercially good only because it was irresponsible and the time had come, Executive Action made money. Those behind it split. Mark Lane went off to his own Indian war and Don Freed was on the outs with Wakeford-Orloff. First W-O got in touch with me and I offered to sell them all. Instead they started stealing, through a very bright and very unscrupulous and crazy assassination buff. The efforts were reported to me, I reported them to W-O, and they pretended nothing was afoot. They even bought copies of my book from me by check. They had this guy stealing the stuff but in the end there was nothing not my work and he could not deliver whatever variant they may have opted so the ironic thing is that for some reason - I don't have the papers- they sued him for $2,500,000 and he is countersuing. Wild when it was all available legitimately for less than they have already wasted? (Unless they were also going to go for more crap like Executive Action.) Freed approached me and we have a verbal agreement. He has put a group together but I have not asked who they are. I suppose the basis is wealthy McGovernites. Their package includes an RFK film and that I suspect is a real liability. I hope I'm wrong. They immediately had threats from the Sirhan family which gave them insurance problems. Meanwhile, costs have escalated so they have to raise more money. So, I'm just sitting and waiting, in part because I have no real choice.

The unimaginativeness of moneyed people continues to astound me. Now that clearly assassinations are in and I've clearly done all the substantial work-and own it - and am not as unknown as my poverty would lead the uninformed to believe, not one has approached me to ask what I have and what does its potential seem to be?

The truth is that I have enough to break the JFK case wide open. Not solve it but force a real investigation. Destroy everything the government has done beyond repair or even defense. What it would cost in terms of risk is peanuts. I have the overlong book that has all this stuff in it done. It would cost about $15,000 for a 5,000 print. The ideal situation would be to get a decent writer who is also honorable and not an ego who is going to try to change the doctrine to do a popularization which could have a fantastic sale but could not survive without the backstopping of the complete work. My situation is such that I'd go for a fairly standard deal, one that did not undertake to rob me at the outset (that comes soon enough in my experience), a fair sharing.

There is what I'm believe could make a fine property in something that followed a real threat to a live Senator (and several others inherent, all 1972 potential candidates). It began "Can Mr. Weisberg translate?" The Secret Service dismissed it as nuts. It does appear to the unsophisticated as gobledegook. But it make good clear sense with "translation," which began with the return address (non-existent) and the bible and ran through such as Occam's Razor and an assortment of archaic expressions most of which, with the proper expert help from friends, I did translate. It could make the assassination book/movie with the "happy" ending.

And I do believe that Watergate and Nixon have made a real market for this kind of thing, not just the tinsel of ~~the~~ All The President's Men.

This last part in case you have any ideas.

I'd sure like to be wrong in the answers to your questions.

Best regards,